



Government  
of South Australia

Department for  
Energy and Mining

# Powering growth and opportunity in **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

[energymining.sa.gov.au](http://energymining.sa.gov.au)

# Partnering to unlock economic growth

The Upper Spencer Gulf is the engine room of South Australia's industrial strength, driving 43% of the state's exports and powering industries that are critical to the local and global economy.

- ✓ Transforming Whyalla
- ✓ Expanding South Australia's copper opportunity
- ✓ Advancing critical metals
- ✓ Powering modern energy

The Department for Energy and Mining works alongside industry to unlock the region's potential, creating the conditions that make investment, project development and industrial growth possible across the mining, minerals processing and energy sectors.

We enable projects through trusted regulation, contemporary policy, geological knowledge and coordinated project delivery. We help attract investment, and unlock opportunities that create jobs, strengthen communities and drive long-term economic growth.

## Enabling innovation and collaboration



Ranked **number one globally for mineral potential** in the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies.

Supporting innovation, infrastructure and shared progress across our regions.

Working with industry to make it **easier to do business in South Australia.**

# Our diverse resources underpin investment, processing and energy opportunities

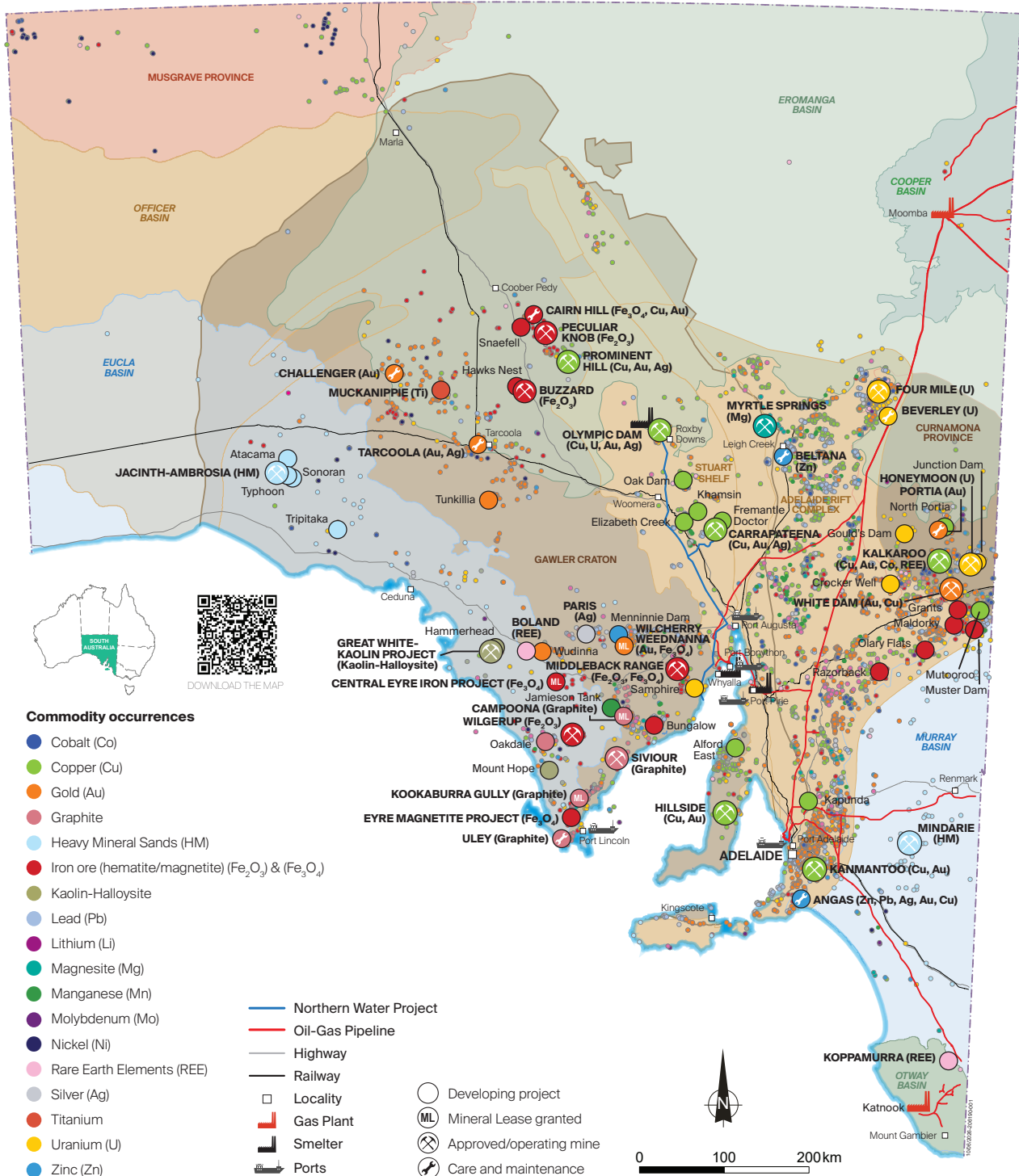
**66%**  
of Australia's  
**COPPER**  
RESERVES

**89%**  
of Australia's  
economic  
**URANIUM**

OVER  
**19<sup>bn</sup>**  
tonnes  
of **MAGNETITE**  
**IRON ORE**

**\$11.5** billion  
in **MINERAL** and  
**PETROLEUM**  
PRODUCTION

**CRITICAL MINERALS**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**  
including antimony, graphite  
and high-purity alumina



# Growing South Australia's future industries

## COPPER

**Copper is central to South Australia's economic future**, representing more than **25% of the value** of export goods from the state.

With 66% of Australia's known copper reserves, the state is uniquely positioned to supply the minerals needed for electrification, renewable energy, defence and advanced manufacturing.

The Upper Spencer Gulf will continue to play a critical role in processing, logistics, engineering and supporting this growing industry.

This year's parliamentary approval of the modernised Olympic Dam Indenture demonstrates South Australia's commitment to providing investment certainty. By providing clear and consistent regulatory pathways, South Australia continues to strengthen its reputation as a trusted destination for global investment capital.

The proposed Northern Water Project is vital to plans to double copper output, including the tripling of value-added copper cathode production.

## GREEN IRON AND STEEL

The transformation of the Whyalla Steelworks represents one of Australia's most significant industrial opportunities.

**The Australian and South Australian Governments have committed \$1.9 billion** to support the transformation of the **Whyalla Steelworks**, providing a strong foundation for a modern, sustainable steel industry that secures jobs, strengthens sovereign manufacturing capability and supports Australia's transition to lower-emissions steel production, creating long-term regional employment.



# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC GAS RESERVE

**The South Australian Strategic Gas Reserve will help underpin the long-term transformation of the Whyalla Steelworks** while strengthening energy security for the state. From 2030, the Reserve will secure the supply of 20 petajoules of gas each year for 10 years, equivalent to around one-third of South Australia's current annual gas consumption across the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

By ensuring this gas is reserved for use within South Australia rather than exported, the Strategic Gas Reserve will support major industrial development, including the Whyalla transformation, while providing greater certainty for manufacturers and other gas-reliant industries investing in the state's future.

# CRITICAL MINERALS

**Global demand for critical minerals continues to accelerate.**

South Australia offers significant opportunities across a diverse range of commodities including:

- graphite
- antimony
- rare earth elements
- zircon
- high-purity alumina
- kaolin-halloysite
- battery minerals
- nickel
- platinum group elements
- cobalt
- lithium
- magnesium
- manganese.

Through investment attraction, geological information and streamlined regulation, we're helping position South Australia as a trusted supplier to international markets.

## INVESTING IN DISCOVERY *PACE*

**Exploration is the foundation of future mining investment.**

The Government of South Australia is investing \$12.4 million over four years into *PACE* Minerals - a program to co-fund greenfields mineral exploration, fast-track discoveries, and attract private investment. Applications for the first round of proposals are open until 11 September 2026 with successful proposals announced by the end of the year. Funding is available for drilling, innovative exploration approaches in geophysics, geochemistry and remote sensing, data-driven geoscience and spatial analytics, groundwater testing and research collaborations.

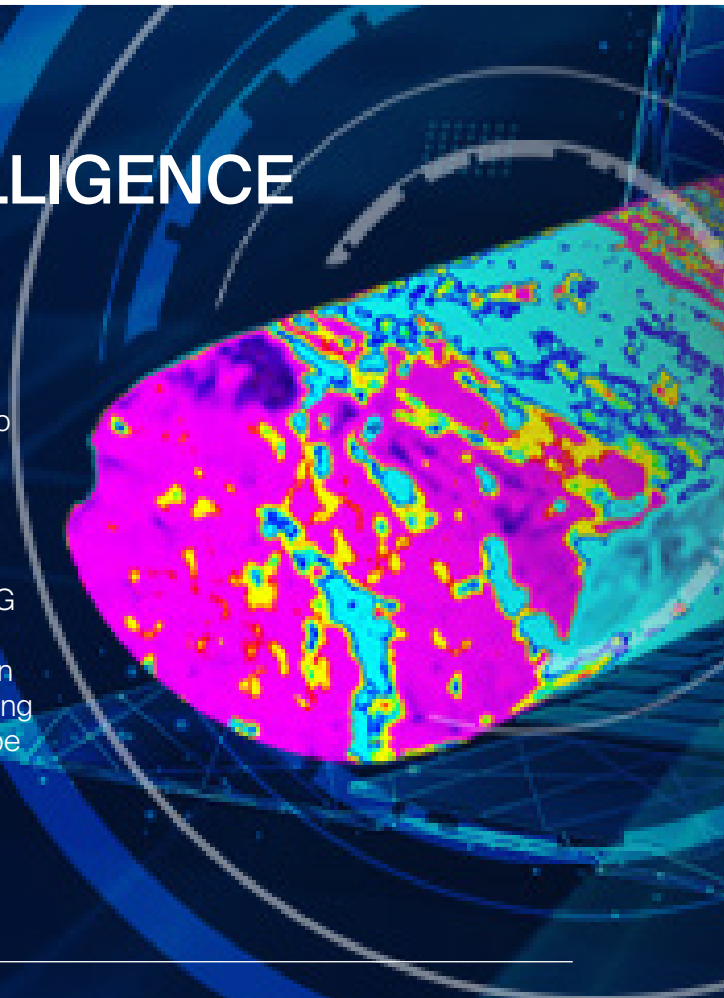
## EYRE PENINSULA AIRBORNE SURVEY

The Eyre Peninsula Airborne Electromagnetic Survey is close to completion, collecting high resolution images and data at 4 km spacing. This addresses a significant knowledge gap over a prospective region and will yield new insights on critical mineral, subsurface geology, groundwater and energy potential. The Geological Survey of South Australia will present their early interpretations at Discovery Day in December with the project helping to unlock opportunities for exploration.

## SARIG CORE INTELLIGENCE

The state's extensive geological information is complemented by SARIG, the South Australian Resource Information Gateway, recognised as one of the world's leading geoscience information platforms. It provides free access to high-quality geological and resource data sets that underpin exploration success.

The strong tradition of data-driven discovery is being carried forward with funding for the SARIG Core Intelligence Initiative that will leverage the extensive collection of drill core samples held in the South Australia Drill Core Library, transforming them into a dynamic, visual resource that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.



# Leading the renewable energy transformation

## PROJECTS IN OPERATION

- ✓ 24 wind farms
- ✓ 6 grid scale solar farms
- ✓ 8 grid scale batteries

**66** RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
PROJECTS  
in the pipeline

**\$29.4bn** INVESTMENT



## EPICENTRE OF INVESTMENT

**The Mid North-Spencer Gulf corridor is South Australia's renewable energy powerhouse, hosting the state's largest concentration of wind, solar and battery storage projects with billions of dollars in renewable energy investment.**

In 2026, the Firm Energy Reliability Mechanism (FERM) awarded contracts to six long-duration storage battery projects, including the Brinkworth BESS, Goyder Battery Stages 1 and 2 near Burra and Northern Power near Port Augusta.

Additional battery projects progressing towards construction and commissioning at Hallett, Clements Gap and Koolunga continue to expand the region's energy storage capacity.

## HYDROGEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT

The Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 provides a clear and coordinated framework for the development of large-scale renewable energy and hydrogen projects in South Australia.

The Act established a streamlined pathway for project approvals and identifies renewable energy and hydrogen release areas where suitable projects can be proposed. The first two release areas are helping unlock investment and support the development of new renewable energy and hydrogen projects:

- **Whyalla West release area**, spanning approximately 6,500 km<sup>2</sup> in the Upper Spencer Gulf region.
- **Gawler Ranges East release area**, spanning approximately 5,200 km<sup>2</sup> on the Upper Eyre Peninsula.

For industry and supply chain businesses, the framework provides greater certainty and creates opportunities across construction, manufacturing, infrastructure, transport, logistics, professional services and ongoing operations, supporting South Australia's position as a leading destination for renewable energy and hydrogen investment.

## Acknowledgement of Country

As guests on Aboriginal land, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) acknowledges everything this department does impacts on Aboriginal country, the sea, the sky, its people, and the spiritual and cultural connections which have existed since the first sunrise. Our responsibility is to share our collective knowledge, recognise a difficult history, respect the relationships made over time, and create a stronger future. We are ready to walk, learn and work together.

Explore and  
**DOWNLOAD**  
resources



**energymining.sa.gov.au**

### Department for Energy and Mining

Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

GPO Box 618, Adelaide SA 5001

T +61 8 8463 3000

E [DEM.customerservices@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEM.customerservices@sa.gov.au)

Published July 2026

© Government of South Australia 2026

With the exception of the piping shrike emblem and where otherwise noted, this product is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.

#### Disclaimer

The contents of this document are for general information only and are not intended as professional advice, and the Department for Energy and Mining (and the Government of South Australia) makes no representation, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the information contained in this paper or as to the suitability of the information for any particular purpose. Use of or reliance upon the information contained in this paper is at the sole risk of the user in all things and the Department for Energy and Mining (and the Government of South Australia) disclaim any responsibility for that use or reliance and any liability to the user.

